

A B S T R A C T

INS AI

Disclosed is a method and a system for re-ranking an existing result set of documents. A user (100) starts a search by entering search term(s). The search term(s) is (are) transferred to a search engine (110) which generates a result set (120) ranked by the search term(s). The search engine (110), in parallel, automatically retrieves context information (130) from returned result set (120) which is related (140) to the original set of documents. The search engine (110) presents (150) the context information (130) to the user (100) and asks for a feedback. The user (100) performs a weighting (160) of the presented context information (130) in a range from "important" to "non-important". The result set (120) is then re-ranked (170) with the user-weighted context information (180) to increase the "rank distance" of important and non important documents. The documents that are now on top of the list (highest context-weighted ranking value) represent the desired information. The underlying re-ranking algorithm is based on an adaptation of a formula by Fagin and Wimmers. The way to generate context information is the extraction of "lexical affinities". This method produces pairs of terms that are found in a certain relation within the documents.

(FIGURE 1)

20